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in 30es

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Title: Soft Errors Handling in EEPROM Devices

Serial No.: 09/437,078

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Technology Center 2100

San Francisco, California
October 2, 2001

BOX AMENDMENT
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D. C. 20231

AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Official Action mailed on July 2, 2001, setting a response period expiring on October 2, 2001, applicant responds to the Official Action as follows:

In the Claims

Please add the following new claims:

Sub F1
Ex
--42.(New) A method of improving data retention in a nonvolatile writable memory having a first reference level and a second reference level, the nonvolatile writable memory having a plurality of memory cells, each of the memory cells being in a first state when storing a charge below the first reference level, and each of the memory cells being in a second state when storing a charge above the second reference level, the method comprising:

writing into each of a set of the plurality of memory cells a respective data value, wherein the data values are one of the first and second states;

identifying a memory cell of the set having a charge above the first reference level and below the second reference level; and

rewriting the respective data value into the memory cell.

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